CLMPTO

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1. A method of encoding at least two sets of data bits into a single encoded block, wherein each set of data bits includes a primary set of bits to be encoded and a secondary set of bits to remain unencoded, wherein the encoding technique requires a set of code terminating bits to be added to the primary set of bits, the method comprising: combining the two sets of primary bits; and encoding the combined two sets of primary bits, whereby one set of code terminating bits is added to the combined two sets of primary bits.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the two sets of data bits each include a header portion and a payload portion, the payload portion comprising encoded speech.

3. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the encoding step is a channel encoding step for encoding the at least two sets of data bits for transmission on a packet switched network.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the data bits are for transmission on an EDGE packet switched network, wherein the at least two sets of data bits are encoded into a single RLC/MAC block.

5. An encoder for encoding at least two sets of data bits into a single encoded block, each set of data bits including a primary set of bits to be encoded and a secondary set of bits to remain unencoded, wherein the encoding technique requires a set of code terminating bits to be added to each primary set of bits, the encoder comprising: input means for receiving the primary set of bits from each set of data bits and combining them; encoding mans for encoding the combined primary set of bits from each set of data bits; and output means for adding a single set of code terminating bits to the combined encoded primary sets of bits.

6. A packet switched network including the encoder of claim 5.

7. (amended) The encoder of claim 5 wherein at least two sets of data bits each include a header portion and a payload portion, the payload portion including encoded speech and the single encoded block being an RLC/MAC block.